

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A composite material, comprising:  
a cementitious matrix; and  
cellulose fibers incorporated into the cementitious matrix, wherein the cellulose fibers comprise a blend of bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers and wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise greater than about 5% and less than about 50% of the total cellulose fibers incorporated into the matrix.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise between about 5%-25% of the total cellulose fibers incorporated into the matrix.
4. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers have an average Kappa number of less than or equal to about 10.
5. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise fibers from species selected from the group consisting of Douglas fir, hemlock, spruce, southern yellow pines, kenaf and redwood.

6. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached cellulose fibers comprise fibers of *P. Radiata* pine.

7. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the unbleached cellulose fibers comprise fibers from species selected from the group consisting of Douglass fir, hemlock, white fir, spruce, southern pine, kenaf and redwood.

8. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers comprise about 0.5%-20% by weight of the composite material.

9. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the bleached and unbleached cellulose fibers comprise cellulose fibers having an average fiber length of between about 1 mm to 3.5 mm.

10. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the modulus of rupture (MOR) of the composite material is substantially equal to or greater than the MOR of an equivalent composite material reinforced with unbleached, premium grade cellulose fibers.

11. (Original) The composite material of claim 1, wherein the toughness energy of the composite material is substantially equal to or greater than the toughness energy

of an equivalent composite material reinforced with  
unbleached, premium grade cellulose fibers.

12.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Original)        A composite material, comprising:  
    a cementitious matrix;  
    a first portion of cellulose fibers having a Kappa  
number of less than or equal to about 10; and  
    a second portion of standard grade cellulose fibers  
having a Kappa number of greater than about 10.

26. (Original)        The composite material of claim 25,  
wherein the first portion of cellulose fibers comprises  
premium grade cellulose fibers.

27. (Original)        The composite material of claim 25,  
wherein the first portion of the cellulose fibers comprises  
less than about 50% by weight of the total amount of the  
two portions of cellulose fibers combined.